

## **United States Department of the Interior**

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Color Country District Office Kanab Field Office

669 South Highway 89A Kanab, UT 84741 Telephone (435) 644-1200 www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/kanab.html



IN REPLY REFER TO: 2520 UTU-90644 LLUTC04000

CERTIFIED MAIL # 7008 1300 0001 5297 3332

August 17, 2015

Governor's Public Land Policy Coordination Office Kathleen Clarke, Director 5110 State Office Building Salt Lake City, UT 84114-1107

Dear Director Clarke:

Enclosed is a copy of a Proposed Land Classification Decision issued in connection with an application made to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under the Desert Land Act.

The Proposed Land Classification Decision relates to the proper classification and potential future disposal of approximately 317 acres of public land in Garfield County, Utah. These parcels are managed by the BLM Kanab Field Office.

Detailed information concerning this application is contained within Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-UT-C040-2014-0040-EA and included under case number UTU-90644. These documents are available at the BLM Kanab Field Office or on the Utah BLM Environmental Notification Bulletin Board (ENBB) at <a href="https://www.blm.gov/ut/enbb/list\_project.php">https://www.blm.gov/ut/enbb/list\_project.php</a>.

In accordance with 43 CFR 2450.4, you have a period of thirty days from receipt of this letter in which you may comment on this action. Please see the attached Proposed Land Classification Decision for additional details.

Sincerely,

Harry Barber

BLM Kanab Field Office Manager

CC: Governor's Office of Planning and Budget Mike Mower, State Planning Coordinator Utah State Capitol, Suite 150 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2210

## PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION OF PUBLIC LANDS FOR DESERT LAND ACT APPLICATION, UTU-90644

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Kanab Field Office is considering a Desert Land Entry application filed by applicant Morgan Ranches under the Desert Land Act. Authority for this action is under the Act of March 3, 1877 (19 Stat. 377; 43 U.S.C. 321-323) as amended by the Act of March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1096; 43 U.S.C. 231, 323, 325, 327-329), and 43 CFR 2520 regulations.

The application seeks to develop for agricultural purposes approximately 317 acres of public land administered by the BLM Kanab Field Office. If the applicant successfully develops the land as specified under regulations, the applicant would be eligible to seek a patent for these lands. The lands are located in Township 31 South, Range 3 West, Sections 6 and 7, Salt Lake Meridian. An overview map of the application area is attached.

A preliminary review of the application determined that the lands are suitable for classification under the Desert Land Act and 43 CFR 2520 regulations, as they are surveyed, unreserved, unappropriated, non-mineral and non-timber in nature, incapable of producing an agricultural crop without irrigation, suitable for agricultural purposes, and more valuable for that purpose than for any other.

The BLM Kanab Field Office 2008 Resource Management Plan allows for public lands to be considered for land tenure adjustment, including desert-land entries, as long as they are in the public interest; accommodate the needs of state, local, or private entities, including for the economy and community growth and expansion; and are in accordance with other land use goals, objectives, and planning decisions (page 112).

A review of valid existing rights in the area determined that a portion of the Circleville Cove Grazing Allotment and the upper section of BLM Kanab Field Office Route 2605 are included within the proposed classification area. BLM located no other valid existing rights within the application footprint.

BLM will further examine these lands for evidence of prior valid rights or other statutory constraints that could affect classification and disposal. This proposed classification is pursuant to 43 CFR 2450 regulations.

Please file any comments, suggestions, or objections in connection with the proposed classification decision with the BLM Kanab Field Office no later than 30 days from receipt of this notice.

Comments may be forwarded by mail to: Kanab Field Office, Attn: Mark Foley, 669 South Highway 89A, Kanab, UT, 84741; by email to <a href="mail@blm.gov">blm ut kn mail@blm.gov</a>; or by fax to (435) 644-1299. Please include the project name "Garfield County DLE" in the subject line of any correspondence.

BLM will review comments received and issue an initial classification decision incorporating those comments.

Information concerning these lands and the proposed classification under the Desert Land Act may be obtained from Realty Specialist Mark Foley at (435) 644-1200 or by email at <a href="mail@blm.gov">blm ut kn mail@blm.gov</a>.

Harry Barber

Kanab Field Office Manager

Date

2 Miles

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